

THE

GOBRECHT

JOURNAL



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of the**

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VOLUME THIRTEEN ISSUE #37

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GOBRECHT JOURNAL

Official Publication of the
LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

VOLUME 13

NOVEMBER, 1986

NO. 37

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GOBRECHT DOLLARS

by

James C. Gray



1836 Gobrecht Dollar from Original December, 1836 Issue

No coins are more popular with collectors or more prized by their owners than Gobrecht dollars. Nonetheless, 150 years after their first striking, these coins remain shrouded in mystery and subject to considerable speculation.

The purpose of my article is to argue that one, and perhaps two, Gobrecht dollars that are considered by the leading authorities on the subject to be restrikes are, in fact, original circulating coins, and to contend that three Gobrecht dollars are legitimate parts of the Liberty Seated dollar series. To do that, it is necessary to review the history of these coins and the previous articles that have appeared about them.

In 1835, silver dollar coinage had been suspended for 31 years and Mint Director Robert Patterson was given orders to resume production using a radical new design. In the same year, Christian Gobrecht was appointed second engraver of the Mint and subsequently given the job of designing the new dollar based on sketches by Thomas Sully and Titian Peale. The next year the first Gobrecht dollars appeared carrying Gobrecht's signature in the field above the date. Criticism in the press forced the removal of his name to the base of Liberty and in December, 1836 one thousand coins were delivered. These coins were struck on the Standard of 1792 (416 grain, .8924 fine). They had the usual coin orientation of the dies and the reverse was positioned with the eagle flying upward when the coins were flipped 180°. In March, 1837 six hundred additional coins were delivered oriented on a medal

axis and struck on the Standard of 1837 (412.5 grains, .900 fine). All March, 1837 coins were dated 1836 and all 1,600 had a plain edge. In 1838, patterns were struck with a reeded edge, the stars removed from the reverse, and 13 stars placed around the obverse. In December, 1839, three hundred coins of the 1838 design were released into circulation.

The history of Gobrecht restrikes is not as clear since there are no supporting documents but the best evidence indicates that they were struck at the Mint, using the original dies, between 1858 and 1868 and in unknown quantities. Various mules such as coins dated 1839 with a starred reverse or dated 1836 with a reeded edge were also struck during the same period. Restrikes and mules were sold at the premium by Mint officials or were traded by the same parties for coins needed for the Mint cabinet. As a result, all of these coins were placed directly into the hands of numismatists, who presumably would care for them.

Gobrecht dollars were popular by the 1860's and the main debate of the Nineteenth Century was whether restrikes existed and, if so, how they could be distinguished from originals. Since all Gobrecht dollars were struck in proof and in limited numbers, it was thought that they were patterns and by the turn of the century they were listed as such in various publications.

The first researcher to study the available records and open the door to our present knowledge of Gobrecht dollars was Walter Breen. His results were published in an article titled "The Secret History of the Gobrecht Coinages, 1836-1840" which appeared in the fall, 1954 edition of *The Coin Collector's Journal*. Breen found treasury warrants for the 1,000 coins delivered in December 1836 and the 600 coins dated 1836 struck on a medal axis and delivered in March, 1837. He intimated that the March, 1837 coins could be considered a circulation issue since they were deposited in commerce by the Treasury department. Apparently thinking the original issue of December, 1836 was struck on the 412.5 grain standard, he declared them to be patterns since the new standard was not enacted until January 18, 1837. He felt that restrikes dated 1836 could be identified by the presence of a cracked reverse die, high wire rims and repolished dies. Breen changed his theory on identifying restrikes in his 1977 *Encyclopedia* and in the manuscript for his soon to be published book on United States coinage. Breen's article had little effect as the 1957 *Redbook* listed all Gobrecht dollars as patterns and Dr. Judd's *Patterns, Experimental and Trial Pieces* continued to list them as such in that publication.

In 1982, Robert W. Julian published an extensive article about Gobrecht dollars that appeared in four parts in *Coin World*. Julian did exhaustive research including a study at the National Archives and devoted a part of his article to the problem of differentiating restrikes from originals. He found Mint correspondence which ordered Mint Director Patterson to orient the reverse die so that the eagle would be flying "upward and onward" on the December, 1836 coins. He also found correspondence from James R. Snowden, Mint Director during most of the restriking, that indicated restrikes were coined in such a way so that they could be distinguished from originals. Julian concluded that all originals of the 1830's had the eagle fly-

ing upwards and all restrikes and mules had the eagle flying level. This agreed with Breen's 1977 theory. Julian did not publish evidence of orders to strike the issues of 1837, 1838 and 1839 with the eagle flying upward or a statement from Snowden or anyone else indicating that only restrikes and mules had the eagle flying level. Julian found the original warrants showing that the coins of December, 1836, March, 1837 and December, 1839 were placed in commercial banks by the Treasury Department and other Treasury correspondence that showed these three issues were struck as circulating coinage. He discounted the theory that the broken reverse die indicated restrikes on coins dated 1836 by stating that the die crack could disappear through use. In his last installment which appeared on November 24, 1982, Julian presented a table of all known Gobrecht dollars citing the date, type of edge, mintage, if known, metal, die alignment and weight. He listed two patterns, the name in field issue of 1836 and the issue of 1838, the three circulating issues previously mentioned, and 28 restrikes and mules. The table also gave Julian's opinion as to the rarity factor for all 33 coins with the most common coins being restrikes of the issues of December, 1836 and March, 1837 which he rated R2. Julian's article revolutionized thinking about Gobrecht dollars and is the authoritative work on the subject today. Soon thereafter, the *Redbook* adopted his thesis and does so in the current edition with Julian listed as a special contributor. One prominent auction company cited the article several times in its cataloguing of Gobrecht dollars, but acceptance is not universal. The current edition of the Judd-Kosoff pattern book continues to differentiate between originals and restrikes by the presence of the cracked reverse die on the coins dated 1836 and by high wire rims and repolished dies on the later issues. All of the above authorities do agree on one thing, restrikes and mules are very rare in circulated grades. This seems obvious since these coins were placed directly into the hands of collectors who paid a premium for them.

I have been interested in Gobrecht dollars for several years and obtained the Breen and Julian articles from the ANA Library as part of my research. I felt that the Julian article was first rate and decided to keep a record of all the Gobrecht dollars I encountered to see what I could learn about value, total population, and the frequency of appearance for all 33 coins in his chart. Being valuable and desirable coins, Gobrecht dollars make frequent appearances at auction so I began studying auction catalogues. To my great disappointment, I found that all auction catalogues prior to 1983 catalogued Gobrecht dollars solely by date, type of edge and the position of Gobrecht's signature. There was absolutely no other information and the photographs were not helpful either. Close to 100% of the plates showed the eagle flying upward when in many instances I knew from personal knowledge that the eagle was flying level. This practice persists to this day with all eight Gobrecht dollars in Auction '86 pictured with the eagle flying upward. Because of the lack of total description in the auction catalogues, it was impossible to place the coins in Julian's chart and the information was worthless. Starting in 1983, Bowers and Merena began giving more information about Gobrecht dollars they sold and on several occasions quoted Julian's article in the description. After their Hatie Auction of August, 1983, Gobrecht dollars were removed from the pattern section of the catalogue

and placed with the dollars and were described as being originals or restrikes. I found, however, that Bowers and Merena's descriptions did not fully conform with Julian's chart because an 1836 dollar with a medal turn and eagle flying level (but pictured flying upward) was described as an original March, 1837 coin (Hoke Green Sale, 1/85, Lot 2116) and an 1836 dollar with a medal turn, eagle flight unknown, (Patterson Sale, 3/85, Lot 2453) was described as an original with the catalogue stating that restrikes have a cracked reverse die. It was not until 1986 that Stack's made any distinction between originals and restrikes and that company now uses Julian's chart including R ratings. Currently, most auction companies still continue to make no distinction at all among the Gobrecht dollars offered for sale and in Auction '86 only the Superior section made any effort to do so. In spite of that Lots 1217 and 1218 of the Superior section were pictured in identical orientation with one being described as an original and one being described as a restrike. It became quickly apparent that auction information was more often misleading than informative and I had to restrict my survey to coins I viewed personally or ones that were fully catalogued.



1836 Gobrecht Dollar with a Medal Turn, AU-50

By far, the most common coin included in my survey was the original issue of December 1836. I quit counting when I reached 30 coins and the list did not include the five that appeared in Kagins 1986 ANA sale. The second most common piece was the coin dated 1836 weighing 412.5 grains with a medal turn and the eagle flying level. Of the 10 coins that I found, 5 appeared at auction, 4 were seen on bourse floors, and 1 was in a fixed price list. Julian contends that these coins are restrikes of the issue of March, 1837 but only one, Lot 1218 of Auction '86, was mint state. All the rest were circulated

including a fine seen on the bourse of the Milwaukee ANA and a very fine that appeared as Lot 424 of Stack's June, 1986 Sale. Not a single one of these coins had a cracked reverse die, high wire rim or repolished dies. Restrikes are said to be rare in circulated grades but the 90% circulation rate I found for these coins is about the same as the rate for December, 1836 coins surveyed. In the same period, I did not personally view a single circulated coin that had a medal turn and the eagle flying upward. Presumably, Julian viewed such coins but I think that at least half and perhaps all of the issue of March, 1837 had the eagle flying level. If all the March, 1837 coins had the eagle flying level and Snowden's correspondence is to be believed for all restrikes, then it would be the restrikes of this coin that had the eagle flying upward. It is also possible that when the March, 1837 striking began the coiner mistakenly placed the reverse die with the eagle flying level. It was only after at least half the production of 600 pieces was struck that the error was discovered and the dies correctly oriented. During my survey, I found 3 restrikes of the issue of December, 1836, i.e. a coin turn and the eagle flying level. All of these coins were mint state, had a cracked reverse die, high wire rims and repolished dies. These coins are as follows: Bowers and Merena. Dodson-Collier Sale, Lot 2037, Bowers and Merena, Ezra Cole Sale, Lot 3034, and Stack's June 1986 Sale, Lot 621. The dies of the 10 coins I observed are identical in every respect to the dies of the December, 1836 issue and the only difference in the coins is the weight of the planchet and the reverse die orientation. I feel that the evidence proves that the coins dated 1836 with a medal turn and the eagle flying level are original circulating coins and not restrikes.

A case can also be made that coins dated 1839 with a medal axis and the eagle flying level are at least a part of that original issue. Of the 8 circulated 1839 pieces I have seen, 5 had a medal turn and the eagle level. These coins



1839 Gobrecht Dollar with a Medal Turn, AU-50

are as follows: Bowers and Merena, Hatie Collection, Lot 2926, XF-40, scratches and polished; Bowers and Merena, Emery-Nichols Sale, Lot 965, Proof 55, plugged; Mid-America 1986 Fun Sale, Lot 1812, AU-50; Stack's June, 1986 Sale, Lot 218, Proof 55, plugged; Kagins 1986 ANA Sale, Lot 4811, VF-30 repaired. The Mid-American coin was catalogued as an original so I called the cataloguer, Doug Winter, to get his reasoning. He told me he felt it was an original because it was obviously circulated and did not have wire rims or repolished dies. The other 3 circulated coins, Stack's Robison Collection, Lot 1890 VF plugged, Stack's March, 1983 Sale, Lot 942, XF and Auction '86 Lot 1219, XF plugged, did not provide me with the reverse die alignment. Once again, I did not see a single circulated specimen that I knew had a coin turn with the eagle flying upward, nor did I encounter a circulated specimen with a coin turn and the eagle level. The alignment of the last three mentioned coins would certainly have confirmed my opinion one way or the other. All the rest of the Gobrecht dollars were rarely seen and this would seem to confirm the high R rating given them by Julian.

Research by Breen, Julian and others have proved that the issues of December, 1836, March, 1837 and December, 1839 were designed for and used in commerce. I feel that these coins are integral parts of the Liberty Seated dollar series and should be included in a complete set. The coins dated 1836 have the no stars, no drapery motif used on 1837 half dimes and dimes and the 1839 coins have the no drapery feature found on all Seated coins in at least part of 1839. By mid 1840, the Hughes' drapery revision was universal in all series. The obverse of Gobrecht dollars followed the same evolution as all other Seated coins and no one would argue that the no stars or no drapery coins are not part of a given series.

The issues of December, 1836 and March, 1837 are available to the interested collector but carry a substantial price tag due to their great popularity and the demands by type collectors. The December, 1836 coins seen to command slightly higher prices with very fines bringing \$2,250 to \$3,250, extremely fines \$3,250 to \$5,000, AU's up to \$7,000 and mint state specimens bringing close to five figures and more. The pieces dated 1839 are much more elusive and, in my opinion, are rarer than either the 1858 or 1872-CC dollars. With so many of the 1839 dollars being impaired, it is hard to get a fix on values but the Stack's March 1983 piece brought \$5,750 and the Mid-American AU brought \$3,850. I feel that a collector is on solid ground if he obtains circulated specimens with a medal turn and the eagle level to represent the issues of March, 1837 and December, 1839. One thing to note in grading circulated Gobrecht dollars is that the BER of LIBERTY is the highest part of the obverse design. This feature will be missing on fine coins and will show some weakness even on VF-30 and XF-40 specimens.

It is my belief that Gobrecht dollars survived in a much higher percentage than ordinary coins of the same era. The distinctive design, particularly the flying eagle reverse, caused them to catch the eye of both collectors and ordinary citizens. The ones saved by non-collectors often became family heirlooms and many saw service as teething coins. My estimate of the total

population now remaining is about 1,250 of which 70% are circulated. Others, including Julian, have estimated that from 2,000 to 3,000 restrikes were made but I place the figure closer to 250 with nearly all of them still

It has been a pleasure researching Gobrecht dollars but it has also had its frustrations. Auction companies need to give a full description of these coins when they appear so that collectors and researchers can properly identify them. The continued appearance of circulated coins dated 1836 and 1839 with a medal turn and the eagle level will solidify their business strike status but no matter how much research is done, it appears that all questions regarding Gobrecht dollars will never be answered. Robert Julian concluded his article with a quote from Breen's 1954 article and it is appropriate to end this article in the same way. "It is safe to say that the last word on these has yet to be written."

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1845	VF-30 Flawless rims and fields, bluish patina on both sides	\$385
1846-0	XF-40 A tough coin in this grade, only one small mark on Liberty's arm, attractive and original, medium gray	465
1848	VF-25 Scarce low mintage, light blue toning around rims, pleasing	425
1850-0	VG-10 Obverse has fine detail but BE is gone, reverse is VF, light brown, ANACS for authenticity, priced as a fine	375
1862	XF-40 Medium gray toning, with a darker streak round the pole, a couple of shallow scrapes in obverse field, still an attractive example of a tough date . . .	615
1868	VF-25 Mottled gray and dark blue, no marks or distractions	275
1870	XF-40 Original medium gray/blue, tougher than mintage indicates	350
1870-CC	G-6 Cleaned, now a light gray, reverse is VG	225
1871	AU-50 Nice luster, never cleaned or fussed with, nice for type	400
1871-CC	VG-8 Reverse is Fine, ANACS for authenticity, medium gray original color, small rim bump at 4 o'clock on obverse, several minor cuts in the field near the pole, how many uncleaned 1871-CC dollars survive?	1275
1872-CC	VG-10 Reverse is Fine, ANACS for authenticity, light gray	950

BETTER DATES #9

I need a baker's dozen to finish my Seated quarter set - 1839, 1841, 1842, 1844, 1855-S, 1867, 1872-S, 1873-S, 1879, 1880, 1883, 1888, and 1890 in full LIBERTY fine, no problems. I will trade from the following list or buy outright coins that I need. Discounts available on multi-coin orders from this ad. Hope to hear from you soon!

HALF DIMES

1840-O	Drapery, Good, original	\$ 22
1846	G-VG, nicely retuned	120
1853-O	NA, F, orig., full LIBERTY	250
1853	Arrows, XF, original	35
1856-O	F-VF, orig., sm. obv. mark	8

DIMES

1840	Drapery, AG, rev. scratch	\$ 5
1844	F, two reverse digs	42
1850	Choice XF	29
1852	Choice XF	29
1857	Choice XF, original	29
1864-S	F, many small marks	6
1875-CC	In wreath, Ch. XF, orig.	22
1886	AU, heavily toned	29

QUARTERS

1843	VF-20, light gray	\$ 19
1847-O	F, original	50
1848	AG + /G, original	12
1849	VG, retuned	12
1851-O	F, slightly bent, obv. scrape	65
1852	F, old cleaning	60
1853	A&R, VF-XF, orig., obv. die crack	24
1857-S	VF, obv. solder removed	9
1858-O	Abt. F, original	17
1858-S	AG	12
1858-S	AG + /G	14
1862-S	G-VG, orig., a few sm. marks	35
1867	F, weak LIBERTY, old clean.	175

QUARTERS Continued

1870	Choice XF, cleaned	\$180
1871-S	XF, clean., obv. staple scratch	400
1883	VG/AG	85
1891-O	Choice XF, dipped, retuning	450

HALVES

1841	VG-F, old cleaning	\$ 55
1856-O	56/56, VF-F, cleaned	18
1856-S	VG, porous obverse	20
1856-S	XF, heavily toned obv., some circulation marks	170
1858-S	VG-F, original	17
1860	VF, old cleaning	52
1860-S	G, orig., Lg. S	14
1866	G + , nice gray retuning	15
1873	NA, Closed 3, G/AG + , original	6
1873	NA, Closed 3, G, obv. scratch	8
1873	NA, Closed 3, VF, cleaned	35
1873-S	Arrows, VG-F, original, nicely re-engraved obverse	22
1878	G, original	10
1878-CC	AG, light obv. scratches	85
1879	XF, cleaned, obv. scratch	290
1884	G-VG, original & sharp	180
1885	F-VF, orig., two rev. digs, many rim cuts	130

DOLLARS

1859-O	G/AG + + , orig., a few marks	\$ 45
1860-O	G, old cleaning, a few marks	50
1872	VG, orig., sm. rim tick	60

I need the following coins in quantity. Write or ship for generous offer. 25¢: 1840-O WD Lg. O, 1843-O Lg. O, 1871, 1872, 1873 NA Cl. 3, 1886. 50¢: 1850, 1851, 1852. Other better dates needed also.

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AN 1854-O OBVERSE DIE WITH “LICK”

by
Bill Bugert

David Cohen made an interesting statement in the last issue of the *Journal* “... there is only one obverse die for the 1854-O half dollar.” At first glance this seems impossible because one die with 1854 metallurgy could not have withstood the pressures of striking 5.24 million halves, the established mintage figure for this date. As odd as it may seem Cohen’s observation is apparently correct but his conclusion is faulty as I will explain in this article.

Living in the Washington, DC area affords me the opportunity to search mint records in the National Archives not normally available to other numismatists. Researching correspondence between the US Mint in Philadelphia and the New Orleans Branch Mint opens the door to information long ago stashed in a basement corner. Although it’s tedious work, searching letter files provides interesting information not otherwise available. For example, a letter dated February 24, 1854 from the Treasury Department to the Director of the US Mint gave this guidance: ‘I will thank you to give instructions to the Branch Mint at New Orleans to coin quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes, not half dollars, and to give attention to the coinage, principally of the smaller denominations.’ On February 25, 1854 these instructions were transmitted to the New Orleans Mint director who acknowledged receipt on March 15th. These instructions were not rescinded until the Director of the US Mint sent a letter on April 17, 1854 to the New Orleans Mint saying “... strike such coins as may be most in demand as such will expedite the amount of coinage.” Assuming these instructions were executed, no half dollars were minted for a six week period of 1854.

The specific mint records contained in this article are from the correspondence file of the New Orleans Branch Mint and the US Mint in Philadelphia for 1854 and from the “Register of Dies”, an unfinished record book listing die shipment information for the Branch Mints from 1839 to 1854. Both are contained in the National Archives. The yearly working dies for the Branch Mints were not normally shipped from the US Mint all at one time. Numerous shipments were made usually at the request of the Branch Mint, the first normally in December, the month before the new year. The table below lists the die shipment information for the New Orleans Branch Mint for the 1854 minting year:

1854-O Half Dollar Die Information (Obverses, Reverses)

1854 Date	Dies on hand	New Orleans Die request	US Mint shipped dies	New Orleans Die receipt
Jan. 1	27,27			
March 8		16,16		
March 22			16,0	
April 6	43,27			16,0
July 17		12,6		
Aug. 3			12,6	
Aug. 12	55,33			12,6

So for 1854, a total of 55 obverse and 33 reverse dies were available to mint 5.24 million half dollars at New Orleans. Assuming all obverse dies were used an average of 95,200 coins was minted per obverse die. This figure is well within the 200,000 to 250,000 die lifespan mentioned by Walter Breen in his "Dies and Coinage" book. This is consistent with 1854-O halves found today because 'badly' cracked obverse coins are not usually found. With a large number of dies available at the Branch Mint in 1854, any sign of die wear would probably mean instant replacement. Incidentally, a letter dated February 2, 1855 from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Branch Mint to the US Mint said ... "I have caused the following coining dies to be cancelled for the year 1854 being out of use. Half Dollars 55H-32T." (H = Heads, T = Tails) Thus, the 1854-O dies were put out of commission except for one reverse die.

When Cohen's article appeared in the *Journal*, I checked my 1854-O halves and found at least five different obverse dies. These dies were distinguishable by the differences in die cracks on the obverses. This proves more than one die was used to coin half dollars from the New Orleans Branch Mint in 1854 and Cohen's conclusion incorrect. So how is Cohen's observation apparently correct?

A few years ago I decided to follow John McCloskey's example from his article "1853 Dimes with Arrows" that appeared in Issue 17 of the *Journal* and portray the same for 1854-O halves. I soon became perplexed because all arrows and dates seemed to have the same placement. Randy Wiley and I discussed this and we agreed that the dates and arrows were most likely on the hubs from which the working dies were made. This is probably also true for 1855 and the 1853 with arrows and rays pieces. But, I cannot find mint correspondence to prove or disprove this theory. If correct, all working dies made from these hubs would look the same except for hubbing differences and die states. Therefore, Cohen's observation would appear to be correct.

If any collector would like a good challenge, he might try to find and distinguish all 55 obverse dies. Comments on this article are welcome.

Hunting for Half Dimes?

Thanks to those of you who responded to my first ad. My half dime upgrading activities have made available some better date duplicates. Plus! I've started searching for nice Liberty Seated material of other denominations and am offering a few of my better finds in this ad.

HALF DIMES

1838	AU-50 Small Stars. Two light rim marks. Pretty peripheral obverse toning. Seldom seen.....	\$169
1838-0	VG-8 Original, a few old scratches and digs.....	25
1840	VF-30 No Drapery. Light cleaning, retoning. Attractive.....	24
1840	XF-40 With Drapery. Nice original gray, draker at shield & date.....	149
1846	G4/AG3 Original, a few obverse marks.....	59
1848	G5/VG10 Large Date, original, nice lower grade example.....	19
1849-0	VG-8 Original, a little scruffy.....	24
1850-0	VF-25 A few light marks.....	29
1852-0	G-6 A couple of tiny marks.....	24
1853 NA	VF-30 Even original medium toning. A few old scratches in fields.....	69
1859	VF-35 Nice original, traces of mottled toning.....	29
1859	XF-45 Iridescent gray toning, sharp, near AU.....	59
1865	G-5 Original, detail of VG/F. Many small marks, mostly on reverse.....	149
1865-S	VF-35 Repunched date, heavy diagonal die crack on reverse.....	69

DIMES

1840	AU-50 No Drapery. Obverse choice & semi P/L. Traces of original gold toning. Reverse light gray, one small dig in field.....	\$ 99
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QUARTERS

1842	VF-35 Large Date, original. Light & medium gray contrast, nice.....	\$179
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HALVES

1854-0	AU-50 Date & obverse devices doubled. Once dipped, now retoning. Multiple die breaks, sharp.....	\$149
1855	AU-50 55/54. Once dipped, now retoning with red, green, and gold highlights. Very attractive.....	269
1856-0	AU-50 156 recut. Light cleaning, several light scratches in reverse fields.....	69

WANTED VF OR BETTER: 1838-O and 1840-O with Drapery HALF DIMES.

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THE 1871-CC QUARTER

by

John W. McCloskey

The 1871-CC quarter is one of the key rare dates in the Liberty Seated Quarter series known for its many low mintage issues. This date has a mintage of only 10,890 pieces and is seldom seen in the higher grades of XF or better. Most of the coins from the early years of the Carson City mint were placed into circulation and saw heavy duty in commerce before they were removed from use. Today the majority of the pieces available on the market are well worn and often damaged from many years in circulation.

With the rarity of this issue it would seem that the collector would have to be careful to avoid counterfeit specimens that might have been made to fill the demand for this rare date. The characteristics of the 1871-CC quarter make this prospect very unlikely however if the collector is aware of what to look for in a genuine specimen. Only one obverse die and one reverse die are known for this date and each die has key characteristics that can be easily identified. These key features will be presented in this article.

The date on all genuine 1871-CC quarters is centered in the field and level with the base of the rock. The key feature to identification is that both 1's in the date show evidence of recutting that is clearly visible upon examination. The first 1 shows doubling on the lower side of the upper serif and below the base of the digit. The second 1 in the date shows three steps across the top of the upright that extend down to the left along the arc of the upper serif. Doubling also appears across the top of the base of the digit on both sides of the upright. This feature is not seen on any other dies of this year and is the



Date on the Rare 1871-CC Quarter

key to the obverse die of this rare date. The doubling in the two digits is well hidden from the high points on the obverse and is therefore clearly visible on even well worn specimens.

The reverse of the 1871-CC quarter was struck from the one die that was used for all Carson City quarters during the first four years of production at the branch mint facility. The characteristics of this reverse have been described extensively by Larry Briggs in his article on the 1870-CC quarter in Issue #28 of the *Journal*. This reverse has the wide CC mintmark with the left C over the A in QUAR and the right C over the R in QUAR. Both C's are located high in the field close to the feather tip with the right C a little higher in the field. Some of the die scratches described by Larry for the 1870-CC quarter have faded through use of this reverse die but these die defects can sometimes be seen on high grade specimens. Clearly visible on all specimens that I have seen is the die scratch that runs from the left foot to the olive branch. Any specimen without the key die characteristics should be critically examined for evidence of alterations. A few counterfeit specimens of this rare date have surfaced and others are bound to come to light as demand for this rare date continues to grow over the next few years.

The picture of the date of the 1871-CC quarter was taken by Marilyn Tierman at Coin World.



1860-O DIME XF \$1275

THIS COMES WITH ANACS PAPERS dated 7-23-86 for authenticity and grade of 40/40. It is competitively priced, has a decent strike and non-porous surfaces. Circulation marks are normal for the grade. The color is mostly medium gray with gold, a natural retone after an old dip. There is one trivial rim bump which does not affect the roundness at all. It should fit any high grade set, maybe even an "original" set. The 1860-O is rare in high grades. (See Ahwash pg. 177.)

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JOHN GRIFFIN

P.O. Box 26019

Denver, CO 80226

MORE ON THE LATE STATE 1854-O HALF DOLLAR

by
Harry Salyards

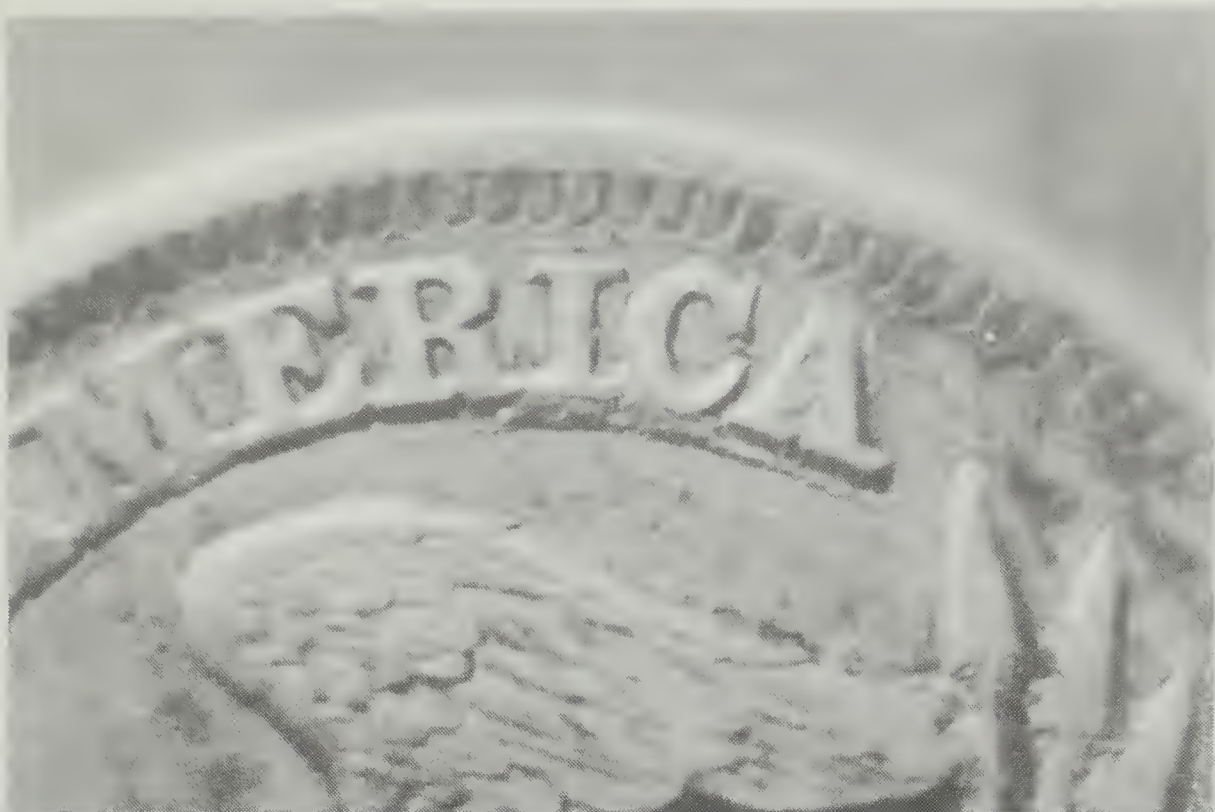
I recently purchased an example of the 1854-O half dollar which was obviously struck from the same reverse die as that described by Bill Fivaz in issue #34 of the *Journal*. My piece is, however, a slightly earlier die state, which allows me to make certain additional observations concerning the nature of this die deterioration.

First and foremost, I believe that the deterioration described is not die rust but internal cud formation. In the area under UNITED, for example, there is a long, broad area of deterioration on Bill's coin. My coin shows a small cud within and under the N with a tapering die crack in each direction.



Under AMERICA, my piece more closely resembles Bill's coin and yet the broad area of extra metal under the last A is clearly lacking. In its place, there is a fine horizontal crack which curls up just beyond the letter.

The area under the eagle's right wing is not encircled with deterioration, as it appears on Bill's piece. There is also an apparent cud off the eagle's left wing, as well as one in the eagle's beak, the latter of which inclines me to term this the "denture variety".



My piece shows no evidence of rehubbing on the I, though perhaps that came later. This die, incidentally, does not seem to match any of Beistle's described reverses. The only reasonable candidate would seem to be reverse G, described as shattered and crumbling. But the mintmark is certainly not well centered up in the crotch, as called for on that die. And for all its deterioration, it clearly lacks the crack from the edge across the tips of three olive leaves, Beistle's reverse D. However many 1854-O obverse dies were used, it appears certain that more than one reverse die was employed.



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Half Dimes

1840	VF-30	No drapery variety. A pleasing light golden gray with some luster left	\$ 24
1844	XF-40	Choice for the grade with a crisp strike and original toned surfaces	39
1849	AU-50	Eye appealing gold and blue toning with plenty of luster left	88
1851	XF-45	Mostly brilliant with a touch of rose toning. Attractive, smooth surfaces	39
1857-0	AU-50	Full crisp strike with light toning and strong luster	78
1860-0	VF-20	Evenly worn with natural light gray toning	18
1872-S	AU-55	Mintmark in wreath. Beautiful iridescent toning with a full strike	69
1873	AU-50	Eye appealing toning, strongly struck, and with good cartwheel luster	60

Dimes

1837	XF-45	Very pleasing with its natural light toning, clean fields, and strong strike	\$285
1842-0	VF-30	Near XF quality. Problem free surfaces with light gray toning	48
1847	XF-40	Beautifully toned in deepening shades of blue upon original surfaces	115
1848	XF-45	A perfect coin for the grade. Attractive gold toning and problem free	78
1851-0	AU-50	Strong cartwheel luster under very light gray toning	210
1852	XF-45	Eye appealing iridescent toning upon problem free surfaces	40
1859-0	XF-40	Pleasing multi-hue toning upon choice surfaces	58
1861	XF-45	Good luster with blue and gold toning about brilliant centers	59
1861-S	XF-45	Choice surfaces, a crisp strike, and pleasing toning. Completely problem free	189
1867-S	VF-30	Even light gray toning with a good strike	89
1887	AU-50	Mostly brilliant with frosty luster and problem free surfaces	45
1887-S	VF-20	100% natural and choice for type	9
1888	AU-55	Full brilliant cartwheel luster with a full strike. Choice	58
1891-0	XF-40	A natural light gray with some luster left	19

Quarters

1840-0	G-4	No Drapery. Problem free - just honest wear	\$ 7
1843-0	F-12	Small O. Natural, original surfaces with light gray toning	29
1849	VG-8	Full rims and excellent surfaces. Another problem free piece	15
1852	XF-40	A solid, well struck piece with pleasing rose-gray toning	139
1855-S	XF-45	Clear surfaces and blazing luster for its grade. A choice example	270
1859-S	XF-45	Exhibits strong peripheral luster and a good strike. Rare in this grade	389
1878-CC	F-12	Rims and surfaces are problem free	29
1878-CC	AU-55	Fully struck with excellent surfaces under light golden toning	195
1891-S	XF-40	Appealing rose and iridescent toning upon smooth surfaces	45

Halves

1849	AU-55	Frosty luster on untampered with surfaces. Brilliant centers and toned rims	\$225
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All coins are graded by a strict adherence to ANA standards and come with a two week return privilege. The above offered pieces have not been abused and are as problem free for their grades as possible. I am always interested in obtaining Seated material in like condition. Please let me make an offer.

Bob Everett

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AN 1878-S TRADE DOLLAR WITH A DOUBLED DIE REVERSE

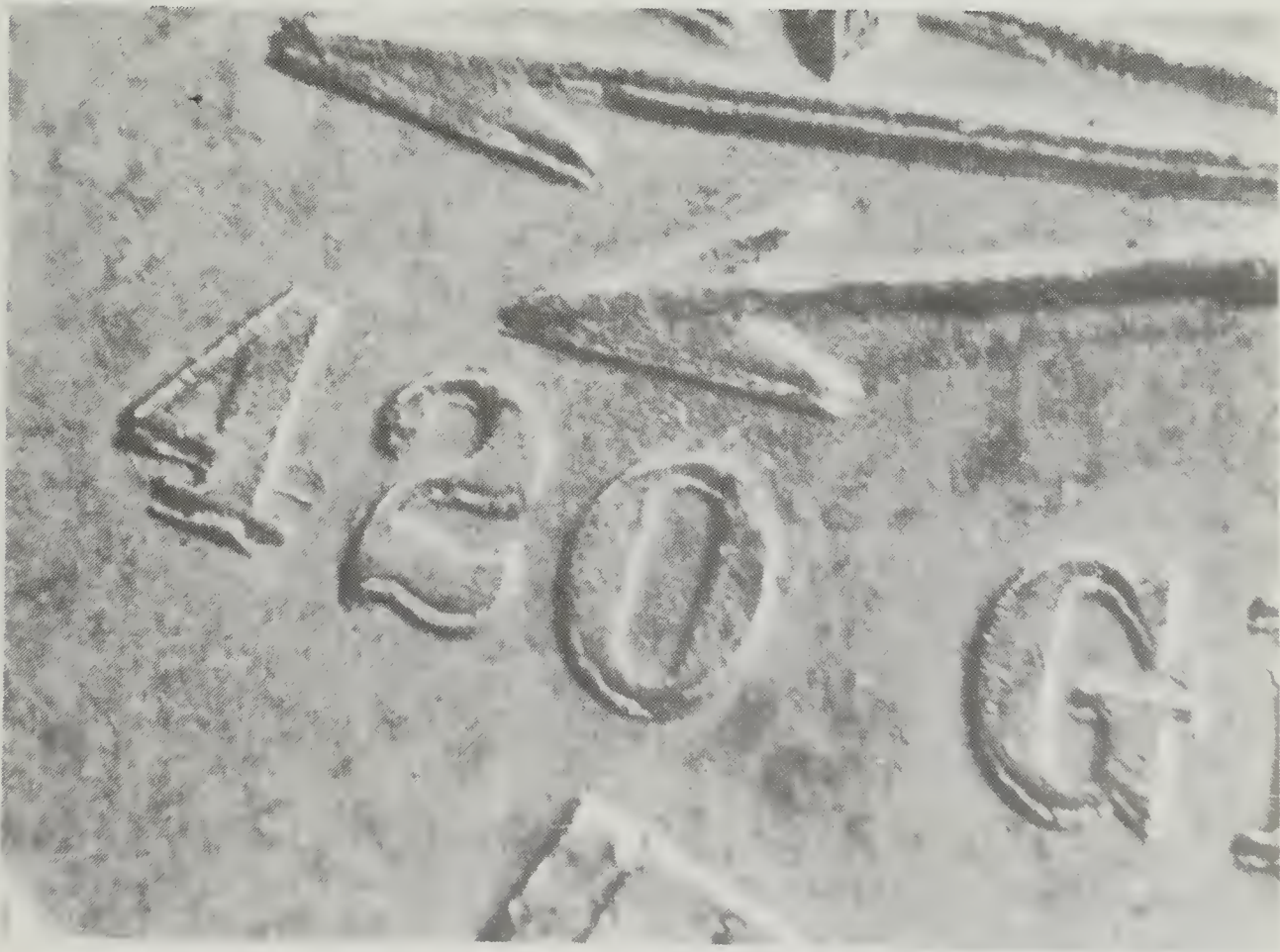
by
Bill Fivaz

During a recent rap session at the Blue Ridge convention, Larry Briggs showed me a very impressive doubled die reverse on an 1878-S Trade Dollar. I filed the information away in my memory bank and because of the strength of the doubling, I decided to search for this variety to add to my collection.

My efforts were rewarded at the ANA Convention in Milwaukee as I was able to uncover a nice AU specimen during the bourse. The piece had been cleaned, but the doubling showed up very well, especially on the left side of the reverse. The doubling is most evident on the arrow shafts and tips and on the numbers "420". Doubling also shows on the lettering "GRAINS", "TRADE" and "UNITED STATES" and is visible on the motto "E PLURIBUS UNUM".

While this doubling is not as strong as that on the reverse of the 1876-CC Trade Dollar, it is still quite evident and well worth looking for. I've started checking all Trade Dollar dates and mintmarks for doubling as there seems to be a proclivity for this die feature in this series. Anyone else have a new one to report???

Editor's Note: Another example of the 1878-S Trade Dollar with the doubled die reverse was sent in by Jack Beymer of California. The coin pictured with this article is, in fact, his coin and it grades MS-60.



A STUDY OF UNCIRCULATED LIBERTY SEATED DIMES

by
Brian Keefe

This is a follow up study of the one I did on quarters that appeared in Issue #32 of the journal. The data base for this study is the same as that used for the quarters so that the two can be readily compared. That is, the data base included several hundred *Coin Worlds*, approximately 150 major catalogs (1974-1983) and several hundred price lists from major dealers. It is important to emphasize that total appearances does not necessarily indicate true rarity. For instance the 1849-O and 1866-S both appeared 6 times. After evaluating the dealer, grade and prices, it was my opinion that none of the 1849-O specimens could still be called strict MS-60 or better. On the other hand I feel that 5 of the 1866-S dimes were probably MS-60 or better. This is one point that catalogs listing only grade cannot bring out. I find that time and again one tends to form misconceptions about rarity unless actual appearances are recorded. It is too easy to sit back and take in another person's opinion on how many he remembers seeing.

As with my quarter study, I eliminated a handful of dates very early on because they were readily available in circulated condition. The dates with an asterisk were not recorded for the full 10 years and, therefore, are slightly more available than listed.

Like the quarters, most of the 1841 to 1852 Philadelphia dates are readily available in lower circulated grades yet these dates are quite rare in strict mint state. These dates suffer from rampant overgrading because of the non-availability of real choice specimens. The 1868 to 1873 Philadelphia dates and the 1879 to 1881 dates are available despite some exceptionally low mintages. As with the Philadelphia Civil War issues, misattributed proofs no doubt cloud the issue. The 1869 and the 1873 NA are the two dates I consider to be quite underrated.

The incompleteness of my records on the later San Francisco dates encouraged me to recheck these dates once again. My original study showed the 1885-S and the 1886-S to be the only dates that were truly scarce in all grades. I felt that these dates warranted further study. I went back through 100 auction catalogues, approximately 40% of the original data base, and to my surprise, found that most of the late San Francisco dates were quite scarce in strict uncirculated condition and down right rare in full gem condition. I included the 1885-S again to provide a link to the original study for comparison purposes.

I hope that this data will provide some insight to new club members and encourage others to continue to try and establish records on how many pieces of each date still survive.

LIBERTY SEATED DIMES

APPEARANCES IN UNCIRCULATED CONDITION 1974-1983

DATE	TOTAL APPEARANCES	TOTAL MS-60 OR BETTER	TOTAL MS-65 OR BETTER	DATE	TOTAL APPEARANCES	TOTAL MS-60 OR BETTER	TOTAL MS-65 OR BETTER
*1838-0	8	8	3	1866	26	20	5
*1839-0	8	8	4	1866-S	6	5	2
*1840-0	4	4	0	1867	17	14	4
1840 WD	2	2	1	1867-S	7	5	1
1841-0	10	7	1	1868-S	11	11	5
1842-0	1	1	0	1869	17	14	6
1843-0	2	0	0	*1869-S	10	10	5
1844	3	3	1	*1870	25	20	8
1845-0	1	1	0	1870-S	19	19	8
1846	0	0	0	1871-S	9	4	1
1847	3	1	0	1871-CC	2	1	0
1848	5	2	0	1872-S	12	9	3
1849-0	6	0	0	1872-CC	0	0	0
1850-0	2	1	0	1873-S	13	10	3
1851-0	4	2	0	1873-CC	1	1	0
1852-0	5	3	0	1874-CC	0	0	0
1853 NA	17	17	10	1878-CC	14	10	5
1853-0	4	2	0	1885-S	5	3	1
1854-0	20	20	5	ABBREVIATED STUDY			
1856-0	6	3	0	1876-S	x	20	0
1856-S	2	1	0	1877-S	x	13	0
1857-0	30	25	7	1884-S	x	5	1
1858-0	10	6	2	1885-S	x	2	0
1858-S	4	4	1	1886-S	x	7	2
1859-0	29	25	8	1887-S	x	26	3
1859-S	3	1	0	1888-S	x	6	0
1860-0	1	1	0	1889-S	x	13	1
1860-S	12	8	2	1890-S	x	10	1
1861-S	4	3	0	1891-S	x	22	4
1862-S	2	1	1	1891-0	x	20	5
1863	14	12	1				
1863-S	5	5	1				
1864	16	14	3				
1864-S	5	3	1				
1865	18	13	5				
1865-S	2	2	0				

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HALF DIMES

1839-0	XF-40, several die cracks on rev.	\$ 49
1844-0	Large O, F12+, nice	23
1845	Recut 184, AU50, nice coin	79
1848-0	Large, O F12+, nice	24
1849-0	G-VG, reverse dig.	17
1851-0	XF-40, nice toning	59
1852	VF-XF35	21
1853	No Arrows, Ch. XF-45, tough coin	125
1860-0	XF40/45, nice coin	21
1861	XF-40+	20
1863	F-VF15/20, scarce	119
1866-S	F12/VF30, scratches on obverse	15
1868-S	VF-20	24
1872	XF-40, little porosity	13

DIMES

1837	Small Date, VG8/G4	\$ 17
1837	Lg. Dt. VG-F10+, cracked obv.	40
1838	Large Stars, AU55/50, a few marks on reverse	85
1839-0	Small o, F-12, slightly rough	15
1839-0	Medium O, shattered reverse die, A-6, VG10/F12	45
1839-0	Medium, O/O, A-3, crack through DIME, XF-40	62
1842-0	Medium o, VF-20	16
1842-0	Medium o, A-1 heavily cracked reverse, VG-10	32
1844	AG-3	19
1849-0	Small o, G-6	5
1854-0	VF-25	20
1865-S	Fair-AG, just wear	5
1868	VF-20	18
1876-CC	VF-XF30+	10
1890-S	S/S, Choice XF-AU45+, tiny rim ding	48

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875-S	G/AG+	\$ 15
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QUARTERS

1840-0	Mintmark left, No Drap., VG-8+	\$ 13
1840-0	Mintmark Cent., No Drap., VF-25	42
1842	Large Date, F-12, original, scratch on obverse	59
1843-0	Small o, VF-XF35	55
1844-0	Ch. XF-AU45+, rim cut, nice	62
1850-0	XF40/45	85
1858-0	XF-40+	65
1858-S	VG8+/10 three rim nicks	20
1859-S	VG-10, small field scratch	67
1860-S	VG10/G4	75
1873	No Arr. Open 3, Centered Date F-VF15+	36
1873	No Arr. Open 3, Date right F-VF15	30
1873	Arrows, F-12, pin scratch	12
1882	F-12, rim cut, scarce	89

HALVES

1846-0	No Drapery, VG-8	\$ 39
1861-0	VF-XF35, porous	18
1866	F-12	21

DOLLARS

1846	Strong G-VG	\$ 65
1847	XF-40, two small dings and a scratch on reverse	165
1857	F-12, a few tiny marks	210
1860-0	F-12, several scratches	65
1871	XF-40 P/L, rim ding, nice	195

TRADE DOLLARS

1877	VG10/8	\$ 59
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THE 1851, RECUT 851 DIME

by
Al E. Blythe

The relatively large mintage of the 1851 dime suggests that there still should be a number of examples of this date available for sale, but this just doesn't appear to be the case. This is supported by the infrequent appearance of this date in advertisements and auction catalogs. Notations made by Ahwash in the *Encyclopedia of U.S. Seated Dimes* indicate that examples of this date were melted in great quantities along with 1852 and 1853 No Arrows dimes.

A literature search proved fruitless in determining whether the coin that is the subject of this article had been previously listed or described. Kam Ahwash certainly knew of its existence for this coin was one of his pieces auctioned at the GENA Sale, October 1983, as Lot 2282. The auction catalog described it as the "A-4b". non-listed recut 851 in date, EF-40, dipped long ago. It was at that time that I acquired the coin.

The 1851, recut 1, and 1851, recut 51, were known to exist and were described in the *Seated Dime Encyclopedia*. Discovery of the 1851, recut 851, must have occurred some time after 1977. My coin which I feel was conservatively graded in the auction catalog is a strongly struck example that is closer to AU. This coin has considerable detail in the area of the date, particularly around the 5 and 1, which are recut up and right. Less obvious, but illustrated in the photograph, is the extra detail near the 8 in the date. The reader should also note that the raised areas to the left of the 5 and 8 are probably remnants of the earlier 5 and 8.



A review of the 1851, recut 51, on page 115 of the encyclopedia showed me that the coin illustrated was a lower grade than the specimen I own. This is supported by the absence of detail in the shield area. The characteristics of my coin check out with those described by Ahwash, but I can add that there are chips around stars 3 through 6 and stars 10, 12 and 13.

I am suggesting the possibility that the coin on page 115 of the encyclopedia might be an 1851, recut 851, instead of the 1851, recut 51. Further conjecture might suggest that the extra detail around the 8 had been obliterated through wear. On the other hand, there indeed may be an 1851/1, 1851/51 and 1851/851! Only comparison with other higher grade 1851 dimes with recut dates will answer that question. Club members are encouraged to check their 1851 dimes with recut dates and to write me at P.O. Box 1443, Placentia, CA 92670. I'll be happy to report any further findings or conclusions in a future issue of the *Journal*. Coin photography by the writer.

SEATED DOLLARS

1844	VF+	\$325	1862	AU, staple scratch on reverse	\$600
1846-0	XF, whizzed? Hard to tell	300	1865	Choice AU	795
1850-0	XF	650	1867	AU	650
1857	XF	575	1868	AU	650
1859	XF	495	1872-S	VF	450
1860	AU	750	1872-CC	AU, nice	2350
1871-CC	XF/AU Old ANACS certificate says AU-50/55. Mintage of 1376. Scarcer than the 1873-CC dollar. Probably 50 to 75 pieces known. This is one of the best circulated pieces of this date available				\$4500

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COLLECTIVE VOLUME NUMBER TWO AVAILABLE

Copies of the *Gobrecht Journal, Collective Volume Number Two* are available for immediate delivery to club members for \$22 each. This hard bound volume contains almost 400 pages of material on Liberty Seated coinage and contains the material that appeared in Issues 19-33 of the journal. Make checks payable to the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and send to John McCloskey, President LSCC, 5718 King Arthur Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

1. A few observations from the ANA. For the most part choice, original circulated Seated coins were few and far between. The majority of pieces in all series were VF or below and had been cleaned. There were several mint state pieces in all series in the MS-65 + range with hefty price tags and a few more proof issues. Of note, I personally observed the following key date pieces for sale on the bourse.

HALF DIMES: two 1846 specimens in VG, an 1853-O NA in AU + , two 1864 pieces, one VF and the other MS-60.

DIMES: an 1860-O in VF and an 1874-S in GEM MS-67.

QUARTERS: three 1842-O Small Dates in VG, an 1842 Small Date proof, three 1849-O pieces in Good, three of the 1870-CC in G-F, two of the 1871-CC in G-F, two of the 1872-CC in G-F, two of the 1873-CC, one Fine and the other XF.

HALF DOLLARS: an 1842-O Small Date in XF.

The other key dates were conspicuous by their absence.

2. This year's ANA exhibition had no Liberty Seated coin displays. I, personally, feel that we as Seated specialists should endeavor to prevent this from happening. I know that there are several choice and complete collections out there that would make outstanding exhibits. I can only encourage each of you to seriously consider sharing your accomplishments with the ANA membership at the national conventions. Most coin collectors have never seen any Seated series complete. This exposure would be beneficial to both the hobby and our club. Please give this thought serious consideration for the future.

3. I propose for consideration at our annual meeting that we, in LSCC, prepare, formulate, and administer some sort of certificate for any significant display of Seated coinage at future ANA exhibits. I would appreciate your comments either to myself or to the President on this proposal. I feel that we have a professional obligation to promote the Seated series and to recognize accomplishments for collectors of these coins. This is one inexpensive and highly visible means to do so. Send us your thoughts.

4. I have received comments from several club members saying that they wished the *Journal* still had a column similar to "Kam's Korner", a question and answer forum if you will. Well, we cannot bring Kamal back but we can carry on his endeavors and ideas. If enough support is presented, I will volunteer as Vice-President to act as administrator of the column and find qualified specialists in the various series to try and respond to all queries. Again, let us know if you, the membership, have an interest in this feature.

Roy D. Ash
Vice-President LSCC

AN 1840-O NO DRAPERY HALF DIME WITH A RECUT DATE

by

John W. McCloskey



1840-O No Drapery Half Dime with Recut Date

Half dimes struck from the no drapery obverses of 1840 make an interesting group of coins for numismatic study. During this period the thirteen stars that appear in an arc around the obverse were struck into each die by hand. This process resulted in a different positioning of the stars on each obverse and in many cases produced doubled or defective stars. The obverses are therefore easily identified by star positioning in addition to other die defects of the period. These distinctive die features ended late in 1840 however with the introduction of the *With Drapery* obverses because the stars were punched into the hub beginning with this new design.

The 1840-O half dime that is the subject of this article is an example of the early no drapery pieces that were struck from dies with hand punched stars. This obverse shows irregular spacing in the stars and can therefore be identified by this characteristic. In particular the stars will be numbered from 1 to 13 in an arc from left to right moving in a clockwise manner. Using this convention one first observes that the 6th and 7th stars are closer together than the other stars on the obverse. Furthermore it can be noted that the 5th and 6th stars are strongly recut, the previously punched stars being visible below the inside points of these two stars. A close examination reveals that the 2nd star and the 12th star also show evidence of being recut. The star characteristics are therefore more than sufficient to identify this obverse die.

This particular variety also has a strongly recut date that is clearly evident upon examination. Evidence of an earlier 8 punch shows along the outside left part of the lower loop of the 8. The crossbar of a previous 4 runs below the crossbar of the 4 in the date and is seen on both sides of the upright of

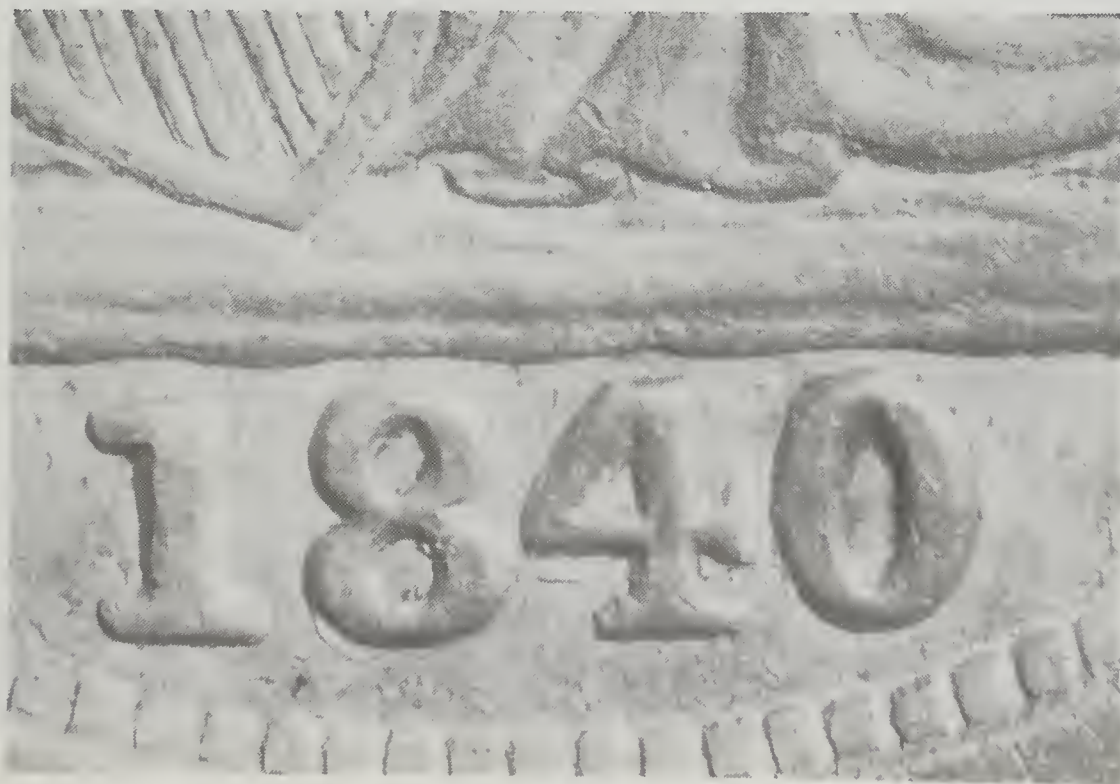


1840-O No Drapery Half Dime with 5th & 6th Stars Recut

the digit. The remains of a previous O show along the lower outside part of the O in the date. The date on this variety appears to be level and it is located high in the field with the tip of the shield over the left edge of the 8 in the date. As a final point of reference the upright of the 4 in the date is centered over a denticle.

On the reverse the Small o mintmark is centered in the field over the bow and below the left upright of the letter M in DIME. On late die state specimens this variety shows a die crack that runs from the left upright of the M down through the mintmark and then on into the bow. This crack then runs from the ribbon to the denticles at 6 o'clock. Another crack runs from the denticles through the C in AMERICA, through two buds in the wreath and then on to the letter E in DIME.

This coin appears to be an example of the 1840-O V-4 variety described by Valentine in his reference book on half dimes. Any additional observations or comments on this variety are welcome.



HALF DIMES

1856	XF-40	\$ 24
1858	VG-10, Inverted Date	38
1858	VF-30, Inverted Date	85
1869-S	AU-50, gorgeous toning	68

DIMES

1841-O	VF-20, Small o	\$ 28
1841-O	VF-35, Medium o	48
1844	VF-25, scarce	115
1845-O	F-12, scarce	32
1853	W/A VF-25	10
1853	W/A XF-40	24
1854	W/A XF-40	24
1856-O	XF-40, Lg. o, Date recut up,	48
1866	VF-25, darkly toned, orig. & rare	520
1869-S	VF-30	28
1873	NA, VG-10, Open 3	18
1873	NA, VF-25, Open 3	48
1873	NA, VF-35, Open 3	68
1873	NA, VF-30, Closed 3	28
1873	NA, XF-40, Closed 3	38
1873	NA, VF-30, Closed 3, recut 7	38
1873-S	VF-30 scarce	48
1874-S	F-12	38
1890-S	F-15	18
1890-S	VF-25	28
1890-S	VF-35	35
1890-S	XF-40	55

QUARTERS

1840-O	W/D, VF-30, scarce	\$ 78
1844	AU-50	118
1847-O	VF-25, darkly toned	95
1848	1848/1848, VF-30, rotated rev.	95
1853	W/A, XF-40	88
1855-S	VG-10	42
1855-S	VF-25	110
1864	AU-50 +, mint luster	225
1873-S	VF-30	68

HALVES

1840	XF-40 +	\$ 75
1841	G4/AG3	12
1841	VG8/F15	45
1841	VG10/VF20	60
1841	XF-40	195
1842	VF-35, medium date	48
1844	XF-45, mint luster	75
1845	VG10/VF20	38
1845	F12/VF20	55
1845	VF-25	88
1845	VF-30 +	98
1845	XF-40	145
1848	VG10/VF25	58
1848	F12/VF30	68
1848	VF30/XF40	95
1848	AU-50, mint luster	235
1849	VF-20	45
1849	XF-40	95
1853-O	A&R, VF-20/30	95
1853-O	A&R, VF-30, recut reverse	125
1869	VF-35	48
1870-S	VF-30	65
1870-S	XF-40	95
1871-CC	G6/VG10, scarce	95
1871-CC	F-12, scarce	135
1871-CC	VF-25, scarce	320
1872-CC	G4/6, scarce	45
1872-CC	G6/VG8, scarce	58
1872-CC	VG8/F15, scarce	75
1872-CC	VF-30 +, scarce	155
1873-CC	NA G4/6, scarce	68
1873-CC	NA G6/VG10, scarce	80
1873-CC	NA VF-20/30, scarce	245
1874-CC	G4/VG8, scarce	135
1878-CC	VF-30/35, lightly toned, orig.	880
1891	F-12	59
1891	VF-20	85
1891	XF-40	155

DOLLARS

1847	XF-40	\$230
1867	XF-40	340

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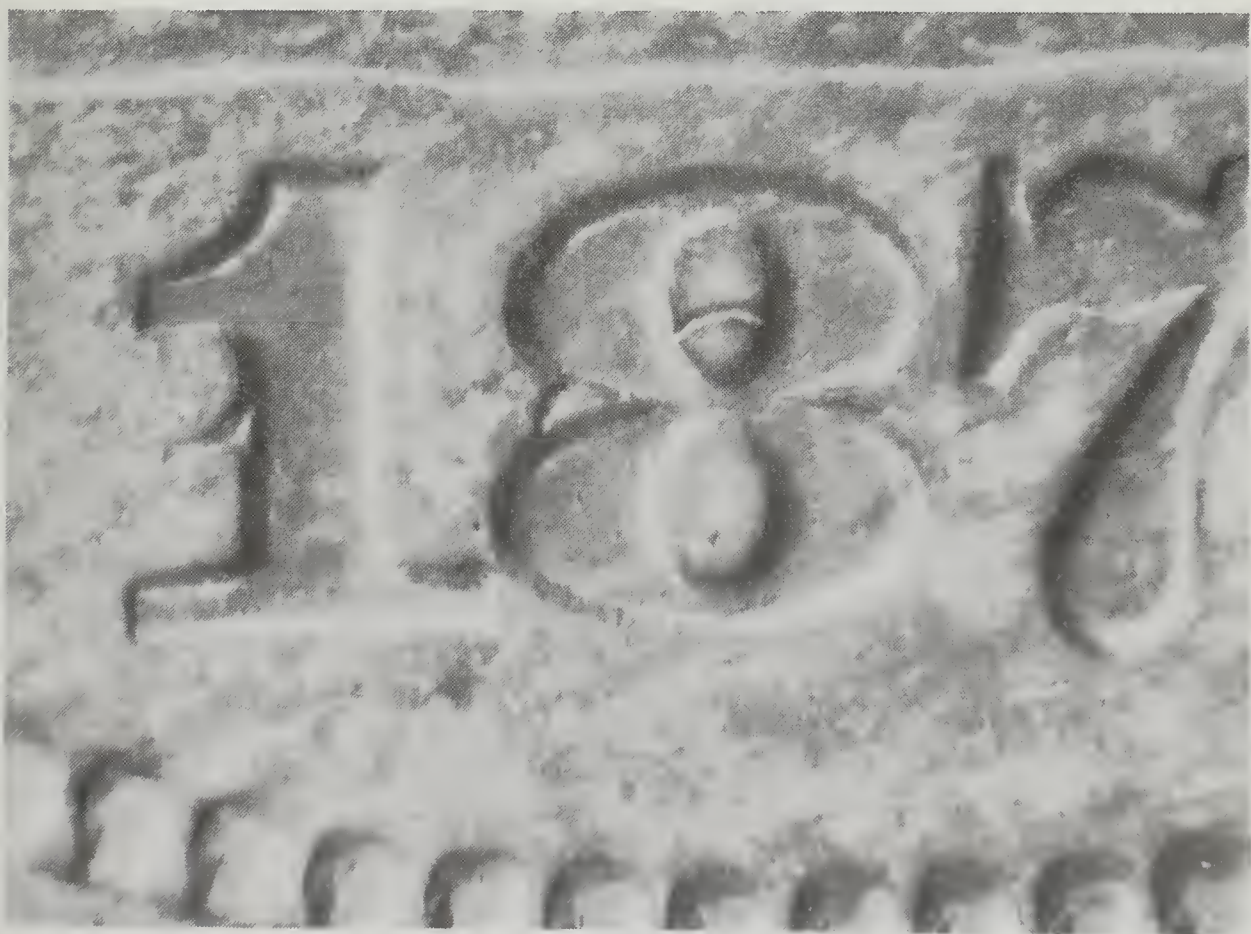
AN 1872 DIME WITH RECUT DATE

by
John W. McCloskey

Shown below is a close up picture of an 1872 dime with strong evidence of recutting in the date. This coin was sent in by Jack Beymer and grades a choice XF-45 with a nice golden toning through most of the fields on the obverse and reverse. An interesting feature of this piece is that the date has been boldly repunched. The serif of an extra 1 can be seen extending from the upright of the 1 in the date about half way between the upper and lower serifs of the digit. A previous 8 can be seen through the center of the upper loop of the 8 in the date and on the left of the digit between its two loops. Although not shown in the picture the digit 2 in the date shows some evidence of recutting through the upper part of this digit.

This variety is not listed in the Ahwash encyclopedia on Seated dime varieties. Using his notation however we would have SP-8, that is the left edge of the upper serif of the 1 in the date falling below the 8th vertical stripe in the obverse shield. This variety has not been previously reported to my knowledge. Does anyone have another example of this variety?

The picture of the 1872 dime with the recut date was taken by Marilyn Tiernan at Coin World.



BLUE CHIP NUMISMATICS

HALF DIMES

1837	No Stars. Original multi-colored iridescence on both sides. AU55	\$350
1840	No Drapery. Lots of mint lustre with some light toning on the surfaces. AU55	200
1845	Stars. Excellent color with some halo toning on the reverse. AU50	95
1853	No Arrows. An even gray color. No problems. F12	55
1859	Stars hollow in center. EF40	85
1872	Brilliant with just a hint of toning about the periphery. MS60	215

DIMES

1837	No stars. A choice gray color with some iridescent toning about the periphery. AU50	\$535
1839	No Drapery. VF30	35
1847	Date overlaps base. VF30	55
1853	No Arrows. Choice original gray color. Mintage of 95,000. EF40+	250
1873	No Arrows. Open "3". Mintage of 60,000. A multi-colored iridescence and rare in this condition. AU55	450
1890	AU55	80
1891	AU55	80

QUARTERS

1838	No Drapery. A sharp strike with mint lustre in protected areas. EF45	\$155
1854	Arrows. Original gray. EF45	110
1861	Lustrous AU50	145

HALF DOLLARS

1839	No Drapery. A rich gray color with darker edges. F15	\$100
1840-0	Small "0" mintmark. Choice original gray toning on both sides. EF40	125
1846	Tall Date. Spiked "4" variety. Light gray devices surrounded by steel gray surfaces. EF40	95
1847	Original toning. EF40	75
1849	Gray devices with darker gunmetal hues on the surfaces EF45	120
1850-0	A pewter gray color. EF40+	85
1855/54	Arrows. VF30	180
1857-S	Large "S". An even gray color with russet tones at the edges. VF30	225
1860-S	Large "S". Inverted mintmark. Brilliant and rare for grade. AU55	360
1863	Even gray color. EF40	75
1865	Recut date. Multi-colored iridescent toning. AU55	300
1869-S	No Drapery. EF40	150
1873	No Arrows. An original steel gray color. EF40+	185
1873-CC	Arrows. Large "CC". A light gray color with plenty of original mint lustre still present. EF45+	595
1875	Motto. Lustrous. AU50	110
1880	Brilliant with somewhat frosty devices. Prooflike surfaces. Choice. AU55	475
1889	A nice original gray color. Very Good 10	165

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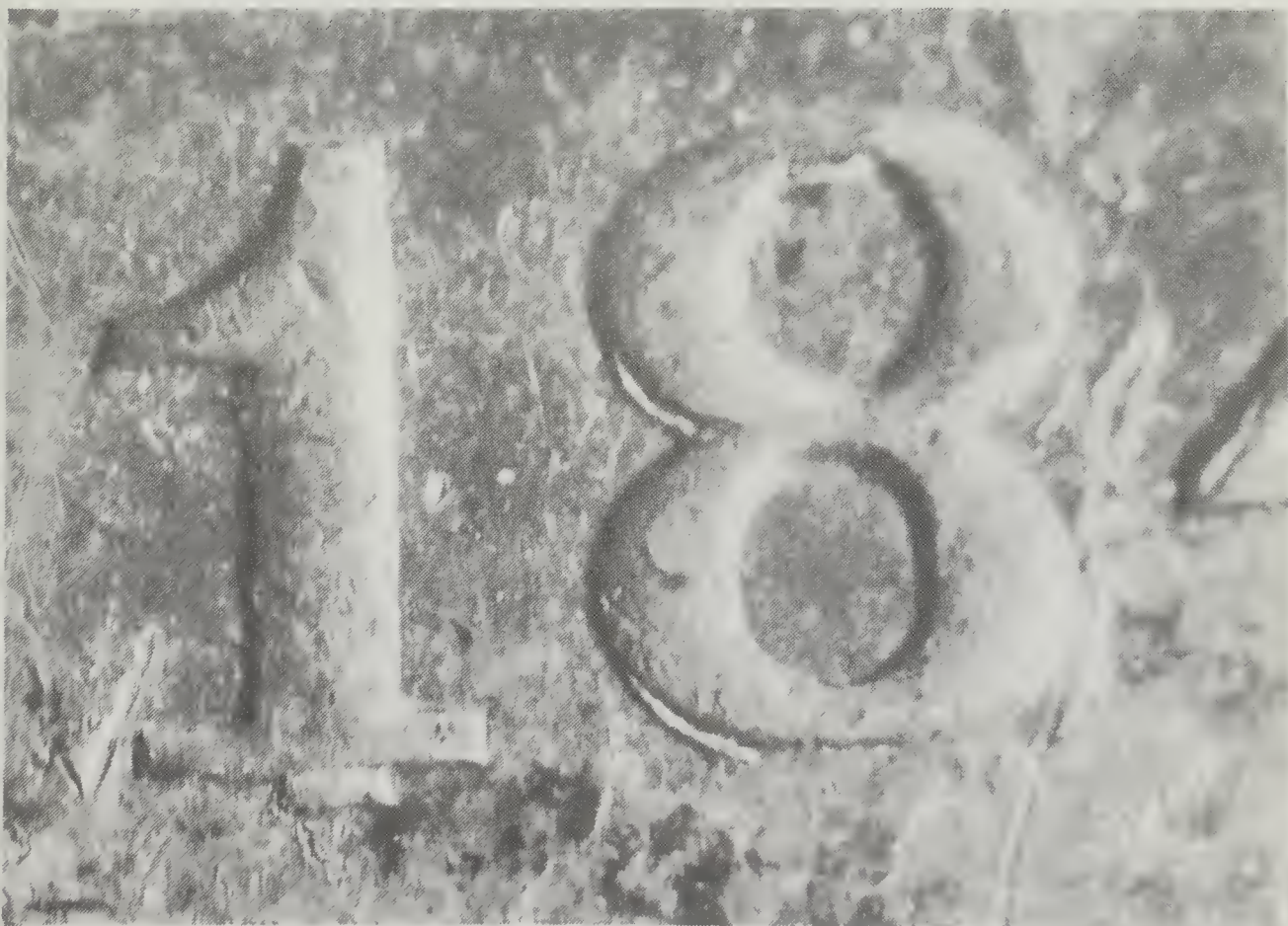
AN 1849 HALF DOLLAR WITH RECUT DATE

Shown below is a picture of the first two digits in the date of an 1849 half dollar sent in by James Bailey of Kentucky. This variety has these two digits in the date recut with the remains of the earlier punches showing below the date on the coin. There is a strong segment of the upright of a 1 showing below the digit 1 in the date and the remains of a serif showing just below the upper serif of the 1 in the date. On the second digit both loops of the 8 show doubling on the lower left outside. The previous 8 can also be seen on the upper inside parts of the upper loop. The 4 and 9 in the date show only minor recutting in the digits.

This would appear to be an example of the variety listed by Beistle as 4-D. All stars on the obverse are recut and the splinter-like defect at the top of the vertical lines on the left stripe in the reverse shield is also visible. Not mentioned by Beistle is a series of light die scratches that run at an angle below the vertical stripes in the reverse shield.

The picture of the 1849 half dollar with the recut date was taken by Marilyn Tiernan at Coin World.

The Editor



BRIGGS WINS AHWASH AWARD FOR 1986

Larry W. Briggs won the Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for 1986 for his contribution "The Mysterious 1875-S Quarter" that appeared in Issue #35 of the *Journal*. The Ahwash award is given annually for the best article to appear in the *Journal* as voted by the club members. This year's award covered the material in Issues #34 to #36 and the award winner was determined as a result of a vote by club members during July 1986. A total of 86 ballots were received from club members who were asked to vote for no more than three articles which they liked best during the past year. It was decided to allow individuals to vote for three articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among a number of articles. There were 210 votes cast from the 86 ballots. A complete listing of the results is given below.

RANK	ARTICLE and AUTHOR	VOTES
1.	The Mysterious 1875-S Quarter by Larry Briggs	31
2.	Trends Value for Complete Sets of Liberty Seated Coins by Grade by Duwayne Statzer	22
3.	The 1854-O Huge O Quarter - A Closer Look by Harry E. Smith	18
4.	Rare Seated Coinage Appears at Auctions with Surprising Frequency by Weimar White	17
5.	The Fabulous 1870-S Half Dime by Q. David Bowers	15
6.	An Update on the 1861/0 Half Dime by Bill Fivaz	13
7.	Varieties of the 1840-O Quarter by Walt Bodine	12
8.	Rarity of the 1869 Dollar by Harry Salyards	12
9.	1846/5 Philadelphia Mint Seated Half Dollars by William Bugert	11
10.	Die Punch Study, Liberty Seated Dollars 1840-1873 by David H. Cohen	10
11.	Small Diameter New Orleans Half Dollars 1840-1842 by David Lange	9
12.	1847-O Recut Date Half Dollar Update by Mike Lloyd	5
13.	Some Unlisted Varieties in the Seated Dime Series by Terry Searcy	5

14.	The 1891-O/O Seated Dime, Is It an O/O/S? by Al Blythe	4
15.	The 1854-O Double & Triple Obverse Half Dollar - or - Has the Die Lost Its Lick? by David Cohen	4
16.	An 1854-O Triple Obverse Half Dollar by William Bugert	3
17.	An Unusual 1861-S Half Dollar by Harry E. Smith	3
18.	The 1843/43/43 Half Dollar by William Bugert	3
19.	A New Variety for the 1891-O Dime by Bill Fivaz	3
20.	Another 1873 No Arrows Open 3 Half Discovered by Harry E. Smith	3
21.	1891, Last Year, Last Chance by Bill Fivaz	2
22.	A Deteriorating Reverse Die on an 1854-O Half Dollar by Bill Fivaz	1
23.	An Interesting 1854 Quarter by Mike Brunner	1
24.	An 1846 Doubled Die Half Dollar by Kenneth Hill	1
25.	An 1856 Half Dime Cud by Bill Fivaz	1
26.	New Die State for the 1840-O Half Dime with Drapery by Bill Fivaz	1

With 26 of the 27 eligible articles receiving support for the best article award, it is evident that there are diverse interests and preferences within the club. However, even one vote for an article indicates that it was important to at least one reader and therefore, a worthy contribution to the available information on Liberty Seated coinage. The officers wish to thank all those members who took time to contribute articles during the past year and we hope that we will continue to receive interesting and exciting material in the years ahead.

HALF DIMES

1847	AU50/50, ANACS	\$110
1853	Arrows, AU50/50	100

DIMES

1837	No Stars, XF40/40	\$225
1841-0	F12/15	12
1845-0	VG8/F12	40
1848	F12/12	16
1852-0	F15/15	30
1853	Arrows, MS60/60	350
1856-0	G4/4	7
1858-0	VG8/10	15
1859-0	VG8/8	10
1873	VF25/25 Open 3	75
1873	VF25/25 Closed 3	20
1875-CC	F18/18	8
1887	MS60/60	200
1891-0	XF40/40	12
1891	AU55/55	40
1891	MS63/63	450

QUARTERS

1850-0	F18/18	\$ 50
1853	XF40/40	115
1853	XF45/45	140
1858	AU55/55	145
1891	AU55/55	155

HALVES

1853	A&R, AU55/55	\$550
1853	A&R, XF40/45	175
1854	MS60/63	700
1854-0	VG10/10	20
1856-0	XF40/40	55
1858-0	XF40/40	65
1859-0	XF40/40	60
1861-0	AU58	250
1875	VG10/F18	25
1876	VG10/F18	25
1876	MS60/60	300
1877	VG8/10	20
1877-S	VG8/F12	22

DOLLARS

1840	F12/12, baggie	\$155
1840	XF40/40, weak strike original	375
1842	XF40/40, original	295
1843	XF40/45, blue gold tone	275
1843	XF40/40, gray tone	275
1844	VF25/25, gray tone	330
1845	VG8/8, gray tone	175
1845	F12/15, cleaned, gray tone	250
1846	XF40/40, cleaned, blue tone	275
1846	XF40/45, dark blue tone	285
1846-0	F12/18	130
1846-0	XF40/40, original	450
1848	XF40/40	490
1849	XF45/AU55, original	440
1850-0	AG3/G4	110
1850-0	VF20/30	320
1856	XF40/40	565
1859-S	VG	210
1859-S	VF30/35, gray tone	395
1860	VG8/10, gray tone	120
1860	XF45/45, brown	400
1860	AU55/55	650
1860-0	VF30/30, gray tone	230
1860-0	XF40/40, original	295
1860-0	MS60/60	750
1861	XF40/40	850
1861	XF45/45	825
1862	AG3/3	210
1862	XF40/40, gray tone	600
1864	XF40/40, cleaned	285
1864	XF40/45, original	440
1865	F15/18, original	215
1865	VF20/20, light gray	265
1868	XF40/40, original	350
1869	AU55/55, original	600
1870	XF45/45, original	340
1871-CC	F12/12, ANACS, repaired	900
1872	XF40/40, original	245
1872-S	VF20/25, light gray	520
1873	F18/VF25	275

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LSCC MEMBERS MEET AT LONG BEACH SHOW

LSCC members attending the Long Beach Convention Center Coin and Stamp Exposition met for an informal meeting and information exchange at the exposition's snack bar on Saturday, October 4, 1986 at 2 p.m. Members in attendance were Al Blythe, Bob Clark, Bill Cregan, Brian Greer, Kean Leiker, and Hal Teitelbaum. General observations made by the members gave the impression that there were many rare and desirable Liberty Seated coins for sale at the exposition.

Some of the pieces I saw at the show were a choice uncirculated 1872-S quarter, a nice XF 1868 quarter and a beautiful XF 1869-S quarter in an early die state with light die cracks. I also saw two rare 1842-O Small Date halves that were on the floor of the bourse.

During the meeting many rare and beautiful pieces were shown and discussed by the club members present. Bob Clark showed us an XF 1842-O half dime, Brian Greer presented a choice XF 1866-S A-2 dime and Hal Teitelbaum passed around an original AU-55+ 1861-S quarter. Harry Smith reported that a fully attributable 1878-S half dollar in fair or better grade was sold earlier in the show. Al Blythe showed us an interesting selection of XF-AU 1890-S dimes, a beautiful 1877-S quarter in BU and a nice XF+ 1888-S quarter.

Club members were pleased at the array of nice Seated coins displayed at the bourse. We hope to gather again in February for another meeting in Long Beach.

Bill Cregan
LSCC #533

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HALF DIMES

1838	No Drapery, Ch. AU	\$110
1839	No Drapery, AU	110
1840	With Drapery, G	18
1840-0	With Drapery, VF	95
1848	Medium Date, VF	18
1848	Large Date, Choice XF	125
1849	9/8, XF/AU	130
1851-0	VF	28
1853-0	With Arrows, VF	21
1864-S	AU	295

DIMES

1837	No Stars, Good	\$ 20
1837	No Stars, VF-30	95
1840-0	No Drapery, VF	32
1841-0	Choice AU +	178
1843-0	Nice VF	215
1859-0	VF/F	18
1873	With Arrows, F	15
1873-S	With Arrows, VF	52
1874-S	With Arrows, Choice XF	165

QUARTERS

1838	No Drapery, Ch. AU	\$355
1842-0	Large Date, Choice AU	275
1850-0	VF	85
1851	VF	105
1853	Arrows & Rays, VG	12
1857-S	Choice XF	405
1864	Choice VF	142
1865-S	XF	395
1878-CC	Fine	48

HALF DOLLARS

1840	Small Letters, AU	\$125
1847-0	Choice AU	165
1848-0	Choice AU	125
1851-0	Choice AU, sharp	250
1854	With Arrows, AU	350
1855-0	With Arrows, VG	22
1855-0	With Arrows, AU	210

HALF DOLLARS Continued

1856-0	Darkened, Nice AU	\$115
1858	Choice XF	52
1858-0	Choice AU	105
1859	Choice AU	110
1859-0	Nice AU	105
1860-S	Medium S, AU	195
1873-CC	No Arrows, Good	100
1874	With Arrows, Ch. XF	155
1876-S	Toned, Choice AU	100
1879	Choice AU + , Toned	465
1889	Toned Choice AU	560

DOLLARS

1844	VF	\$325
1846-0	XF	480
1846-0	AU	1350
1847	Nice AU	530
1849	VF	295
1849	Choice XF	360
1850-0	Toned Choice AU	1445
1871	XF	230
1872-S	VF	510
1872-S	XF-40	560
1873	VF+	280

TRADE DOLLARS

1873	VF	\$125
1873-CC	Choice AU, Lite Toning	575
1874	VF	140
1874-S	AU	225
1875-S	AU	235
1876-S	Choice AU, Slider	255
1877	Dark AU	235
1877-S	Choice XF	135
1877-S	AU	235
1878-S	XF	120
1878-S	Super Slider AU	250
1878-S	MS-60	425

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Liberty Seated dime I recently purchased from a dealer was described as 1866-S with a long obverse die break. This coin turned out to be an 1866-S A-2 variety which is shown on page 203 of the Seated dime encyclopedia. My specimen is XF and I consider it to be a late die state with all of the characteristics described by Ahwash. While my coin has a weak F in OF and a weak first A in AMERICA it has a strong first T in STATES.

In 1977 Ahwash described the 1866-S A-2 variety as very rare. McCloskey describes both known varieties of the 1866-S dime in Issue #6 of the *Journal* but makes no mention of the die cracks on either variety. I have checked the last 15 issues of the *Journal* and have found that the 1866-S dime appeared four times, but no mention is made of die cracks.

I must assume that the 1866-S A-2 dime is still considered to be rare. Comments regarding this rare variety are welcome and may be addressed to me at P.O. Box 1443, Placentia, California 92670.

Al Blythe
LSCC #579

I would again like to share with fellow club members a story about another rare Seated coin that has been brought back to light thanks to the efforts of a gold miner from my area. This coin is a rare 1874-CC dime, the key to the Seated dime series. This coin is one of the better dimes that I have seen panned from the California hills. It has a full sharp LIBERTY and it has the typical die cracks for this date.

On the obverse you can see the line from the heel of the foot and the line in the rock above the 4 in the date. You can also see the crack in the horizontal stripes that runs through the center of the R in LIBERTY and then on to the edge of the shield. There is no damage to the coin except for a rim scrape on the obverse at 7 o'clock.

The reverse has the typical die crack through the CC mintmark. A crack also runs from the rim at 3 o'clock through the corn tassel and kernel and on into the leaves. The crack that joins the two outer leaves at 9 o'clock is also visible. This coin is a nice F-15 or better on the obverse with maybe a little weaker reverse. It should grade better by overall appearance but it has been lost for a lot of years. The coin has some minor corrosion in the deepest crevices but overall it is a nice example of the key to the Seated dime series. I traded for this coin at less than good trends. That is about as reasonable a price as I was ever going to find.

Duwayne Statzer
LSCC #758

I read with great interest Walt Bodine's excellent article on the varieties of the 1840-O quarter dollar. His descriptions and photos should clear up some of the confusion surrounding this interesting year of production. I, personally, would prefer to call the mintmark size associated with the no drapery issue a Medium O, however, as I reserve the large size designation for the with drapery issue and those New Orleans mintmarks of 1843 through 1860.

The Large O with drapery variety is much scarcer than the Small o but I don't know that I would call it rare. I have personally seen over two dozen examples of this variety and know of several others owned by club members. A nice VF example of the variety recently sold at auction with a couple of other quarters for \$280. The variety is available at reasonable prices but most examples are just not properly attributed. Whether the variety exists in mint state is not yet known.

Roy D. Ash
LSCC #159

It was wonderful to see the article on New Orleans quarters by Walt Bodine. At the moment I have only one of each major type for the 1840-O quarter. This spring I saw four no drapery 1840-O quarters at the Northwest show, two of each mintmark position. I bought a nice XF for \$126, it is Bodine variety #1. My with drapery specimen is from the big hoard a few years ago via Bowers & Merena. It's virtually uncirculated but lightly cleaned of dark tarnish. They graded it XF 45 which is very fair. I've never seen a bolder strike on a Seated quarter of any date or mint. It seems to be proof-like. This one is Bodine variety #4.

Neil Clasen
LSCC #607

I recently attended a conference at Lake Tahoe and while there got a chance to visit the old Carson City Mint that is now a State Museum. I took some pictures of the analytical tools, balances and bottles used in the assay work at the old mint. I also took some nice pictures of the old coin machine No. 1 which stamped out the famous Carson City issues.

One thing that surprised me was the lack of coins on display at the museum and the condition of the coins that were shown. The 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1872-CC dollars were on display but they were all well circulated. The 1873-CC date was missing! The trade dollars were in worse shape and one even had a hole in it. However, the visit was very worthwhile and one could not help but get caught up in the excitement of the past and the general atmosphere where gold and silver were discovered over a century ago. I had the opportunity of going into an old mine in Virginia City and seeing a vein of the Old Comstock lode. The picture I took of the vein of ore turned out very clear since the silver sulfide rich ore had great contrast with the non-rich lighter colored ore.

Weimer White
LSCC #660

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1841-0	Choice AU +	\$175
1846	Full VF	400
1847	Choice AU + +	145
1853	No Arrows, Choice BU +	775
1853-0	No Arrows, VG/F, small mark	145

DIMES

1846	Choice VF/XF	\$275
1856-S	VF, light bend	130
1864	VG/Fine, full LIBERTY	300
1864	Cameo Proof	800
1866	Choice BU	650
1873-CC	VG	475
1881	Choice BU frosty	375

QUARTERS

1848/8	Choice VF/XF	\$ 90
1853/2	Fine	265
1862-S	VF, old cleaning	85
1870-CC	G/VG	1100
1871-CC	Good	675
1880	Fine	155
1882	VG/F	145
1882	Toned Proof	445
1885	VG/G	135

HALVES

1839	No Orapery, VF/XF	\$165
1840	Reverse of 1838, XF/AU	450
1843-0	Ooubled Date, VG	55
1844	44/44, XF	70
1845-0	Ooubled Oate, AU	175
1845-0	O/Horizontal O, AU	175
1846	Ooubled Oie Obverse, XF	300
1846/5	XF+, B-1B, reverse	300
1846	6/Horizontal 6, XF	375
1846-0	Tall Oate, VF	230
1847	XF+	70
1848	F/VF	58
1850	AU	425
1850-0	Choice VF/XF	60
1851	AU + +	575
1855/4	XF+	385
1855	855/854, AU	450
1855	XF	125

HALVES

1855-0	AU	\$165
1856-S	AU +, obverse pin prick	575
1857-0	AU +	175
1858-0	AU +, dipped	145
1858-S	AU +	475
1859-S	AU	375
1859-0	AU	115
1860-0	Type 2 reverse, Fine	90
1860-S	Medium S, Choice XF	95
1860-S	Large S, AU +	175
1861	XF+	57
1864	XF+	135
1866	Fine	30
1867	XF+	145
1867	AU +	275
1870	AU	165
1870-CC	AG+ /G	450
1870-CC	VG/F	875
1873	NA, Open 3, G +	POR
1873-CC	NA, F/VF	195
1873-CC	Arrows, F/VF, marks	135
1874-CC	Fine, weak LIBERTY	350
1875	AU +	165
1877	Proof-58	245
1878-S	FR/AG, Real-just wear	POR
1878-CC	Choice VG	245
1880	AU, dipped	345
1881	PL AU +	475

DOLLARS

1846-0	PL AU, flaw in right field	\$475
1850-0	VF, scratch through date	185
1857	AU, old cleaning	575
1859-0	XF+	255
1860-0	XF	195
1862	XF, flaw in reverse shield	490
1862	XF, dark	600
1866	Fine	160
1869	XF, light rim ticks	235
1870-CC	VG/F, cleaned, scratch thru CC	185
1872-S	AU, cleaned	600
1872-S	Choice UNC	1975

TRADE DOLLARS

1876-S	Choice XF	\$135
1878-CC	F/VF	325

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New Members.....	\$1026.00	
Renewal Memberships.....	3778.00	
Advertising.....	550.00	
Magazine Sales.....	12.00	
Donations.....	15.00	
Interest Income.....	231.57	
Total Receipts.....	\$5612.57	
Total Available.....		\$7928.03

Disbursements

Printing.....	\$3099.14	
Postage & Office Expenses.....	1926.12	
Award Plaque.....	29.63	
ANA Membership Dues.....	25.00	
Refund Advertisement.....	10.00	
Total Spent.....	\$5089.89	
Cash Balance July 24, 1986.....		\$2838.14

John Kroon
Secretary/Treasurer
LSCC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I'M A COLLECTOR ☐ DEALER ☐ COLLECTOR/DEALER ☐

YOU MAY ☐ MAY NOT ☐

SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

I COLLECT BY DATE SEATED HALF DIMES ☐ DIMES ☐

QUARTERS ☐ HALF DOLLARS ☐ DOLLARS ☐ ALL SEATED ☐

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

~~~~~  
Membership Fee - 11.00 for first year dues and initiation  
fee. Fill in the above and mail with \$11.00 to:

John Kroon • P.O. Box 1062  
Midland, Michigan 48641

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We ask that you notify us as soon as possible when you move or change your mailing address. It seems that we always have one or two Journals returned to us for improper address when a member has moved to a new location. In such cases we must wait for the member to contact us and provide us with the new address. To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving the Journal and to assist us on keeping our mailing list current, we ask that you inform us as soon as possible of any change of address.

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## GOBRECHT DOLLAR REVERSE DECEMBER 1836 ISSUE



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Your comments on any of the articles, ads or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

**John McCloskey**  
Editor, Gobrecht Journal  
5718 King Arthur Drive  
Kettering, Ohio 45429